

Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously presented) A method for processing data regarding a dental prosthesis, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing input data which represent a three-dimensional surface of a tooth stump prepared for a prosthesis;
 - b) providing stability requirements for the prosthesis, wherein the stability requirements include a minimum required thickness of the prosthesis,
 - c) generating control data from said input data, said control data representing a control surface which meets the stability requirements,
 - d) generating design data from said input data and separately from the control data which represent the three-dimensional shape of the prosthesis, and
 - e) displaying the shape of the prosthesis together with the control surface on a monitor; wherein the displayed control surface provides a visual representation of the minimum required thickness, the design data are modified by a user based on a visual comparison of the displayed design data and the displayed control surface in order to meet the stability requirements; and
the design of the prosthesis corresponding to the modified design data is displayed on the monitor together with the control surface.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein an outer surface of the prosthesis is scaled differently in at least two spatial axes such that a given preparation margin remains thereby unchanged.

4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the control surface meets the minimum stability requirements for the prosthesis.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Previously presented) A data processing system comprising:
 - a) an input device for data regarding a three dimensional surface of a tooth stump prepared for a dental prosthesis;
 - b) a central unit connected to the input device and running a program for processing the data according to a method comprising the steps of:
 - i) providing input data which represent a three-dimensional surface of a tooth stump prepared for a prosthesis,
 - ii) providing stability requirements for the prosthesis, wherein the stability requirements include a minimum required thickness of the prosthesis,
 - iii) generating control data from said input data, said control data representing a control surface which meets the stability requirements,
 - iv) generating design data from said input data and separately from the control data which represent the three-dimensional shape of the prosthesis, and
 - v) displaying the shape of the prosthesis together with the control surface on a monitor;

wherein the displayed control surface provides a visual representation of the minimum required thickness, the design data are modified by a user based on a visual comparison of the displayed design data and the displayed control surface in order to meet the stability requirements; and

the design of the prosthesis corresponding to the modified design data is displayed on the monitor together with the control surface; and
 - c) a display device connected to the central unit for the design of the prosthesis and the control surface.

7-12 (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the input data is provided by a scanner.

14. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the scanner is an intra-oral scanner.

15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the outer surface of the prosthesis is scaled based on data input via a keyboard.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein an outer surface of the prosthesis is scaled in at least two spatial axes, and wherein at least one spatial axis has a variable scaling factor.

17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the stability requirements are automatically provided by a computing apparatus.

18. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the control data are generated automatically by a computing apparatus.

19. (Previously presented) The data processing system according to claim 6, wherein the stability requirements are automatically provided by the central unit.

20. (Previously presented) The data processing system according to claim 6, wherein the control data are generated automatically by the central unit.

21. (New) A method for processing data regarding a dental prosthesis, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing input data, by means of an intra-oral scanner, which represent a three-dimensional surface of a tooth stump prepared for a prosthesis;

- b) providing stability requirements for the prosthesis, wherein the stability requirements include a minimum required thickness of the prosthesis,
- c) generating control data from said input data, said control data representing a control surface which meets the stability requirements for the prosthesis, wherein control data are generated automatically by a computing apparatus,
- d) generating design data from said input data and separately from the control data which represent the three-dimensional shape of the prosthesis,
- e) scaling an outer surface of the prosthesis in at least two spatial axes, wherein at least one spatial axis has a variable scaling factor, and
- f) displaying the shape of the prosthesis together with the control surface on a monitor; wherein the displayed control surface provides a visual representation of the minimum required thickness, the design data are modified by a user based on a visual comparison of the displayed design data and the displayed control surface in order to meet the stability requirements; and

the design of the prosthesis corresponding to the modified design data is displayed on the monitor together with the control surface.